

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Crystal Stewart

WS-D2987A-18-1250

From: Wesley Van Cleve
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Crystal Stewart
Subject: FW: Johnson Utilities Meter Management Program

From: Trevor Baggione <baggiore.trevor@azdeq.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 8:10 AM
To: Wesley Van Cleve <WVancleve@azcc.gov>; Elijah Abinah <EAbinah@azcc.gov>; Naomi Davis <NDavis@azcc.gov>; Robin Mitchell <RMitchell@azcc.gov>
Cc: Mindi Cross <cross.mindi@azdeq.gov>; Schwartz, Adam <Adam.Schwartz@azag.gov>; Randy Matas <matas.randall@azdeq.gov>
Subject: Johnson Utilities Meter Management Program

Hi Eli, Wes, Robin, and Naomi,

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality understands that the Arizona Corporation Commission will consider lifting the "meter management program" in the CC&N area for Johnson Utilities during the open meeting scheduled for December 10, 2019. ADEQ has the following compliance concerns regarding this decision. Some of these properties that may be afforded new meters will have their wastewater flows directed to the Johnson Utilities Pecan Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). The Pecan WRP has four unauthorized surface water impoundments adjacent to the facility. These surface impoundments have been historically used to illegally store and recharge excess treated effluent.

The additional wastewater flows to the Pecan WRP that will necessarily result from the installation of new water meters will increase the likelihood that the facility will need to make use of the surface water impoundments. This is especially true during the winter months when demand for reclaimed water ebbs. ADEQ responded to two separate incidents regarding the structural integrity of the berm of these surface impoundments last winter. In January 2019, 0.4 to 0.5 million gallons of effluent was illegally discharged into Queen Creek via an uncontrolled berm failure of one of the unauthorized impoundments. In March 2019, the structural integrity of the surface water impoundment was compromised and effluent was discharged onto an adjacent residential property.

Until the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of these impoundments is verified and approved, ADEQ is not confident that the use of the impoundments will be protective of human health and the environment. It is ADEQ's understanding that the water metering restrictions were put into place to mitigate the concerns regarding the system's capacity and to reduce the likelihood of further unauthorized discharges.

The Pecan WRP surface impoundments are categorical discharging facilities and are required to have an Aquifer Protection Permit under A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 3. While ADEQ is in receipt of an application for these surface water impoundments, no final determination with respect to that application has been made. Adding any wastewater to an unpermitted surface impoundment is a violation of Arizona law under A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 4 and ADEQ does not support the removal of the metering restrictions at this time for the Pecan service area.

Thanks,

Trevor Baggione

Water Quality Division Director

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